# Hope Latham Retires Again

**Actress Who Disappeared From Stage to Lead Idyllic Life With Husband Who Abhorred Theaters, Reappears After His Death, but Weds Producer.**

Hope Latham

A TRIANGLE of love, familiar enough since the world began, a beautiful woman at the height of her theatrical career, two blissful marriages in three short years, and the stage is the only sufferer!

Such, in brief, is the story of Hope Latham.

Just when she had reached the pinnacle of fame in the histrionic realm, when her name, after many years of hard, faithful work, was emblazoned on Broadway, she disappeared from theatrical affairs, from the metropolis and, apparently, from the world.

A few weeks ago she reappeared, as the widowed-bride of Collin Kemper. They are now honeymooning in the south. And in the three years that had intervened Hope Latham had seemingly tasted all of life's happiness. She left the stage to wed a recluse, who carried her away to his beautiful Hudson river estate and kept her there until his death, last fall.

All this while Hope Latham was loved by another man, a man who also made a fortune and retired from the theatrical producing business. Collin Kemper had never married. When he met the girl that culminated his fortune as a producer, he vowed he would never wed, unless it were her. She deserted the stage for another man, a man, by the by, who hated the stage and all its connections, and Kemper gave up the producing business, although he and his partner had made a million each out of it and were then in the heyday of their fortunes.

When the wealthy Harry Sheppard Coykendall died a peaceful death amid the birds and flowers and woods of his estate he loved so well, Miss Latham again heard the call of the stage. She could have lived quietly on the beautiful estate of her husband, but she preferred, as she thought then and had been thinking for two years, that she loved the stage next only to her husband. Now that he was gone, she would return to the stage.

Miss Latham went back to New York and, naturally, called on the man who had made her a star, Collin Kemper. Then Kemper, retired from the producing business, told her of his love that had grown during the two years she had been away. To make a long story short, January 5 a small party went to Hoboken and saw them married. The wedding was not to have been announced until June, but it leaked out, as news has a way of leaking out around New York.

Will Miss Latham return to the stage again? She doesn't know, but it is not probable. Collin Kemper, with his million made out of the theatrical business, will probably induce her to return to the quiet domestic life she learned to love on the Hudson valley estate.

Having married one man who hated the stage, and another who has retired from the business, it would seem that Miss Latham was lost forever to the footlights. And Broadway is grieving. Miss Latham won her stardom by hard, conscientious work. She was not a star made overnight to last the season out.

She appeared first on the stage in New York in Clyde Fitch's play "The Woman in the Case." In the season following she appeared with John Drew in "His House in Order" at the Empire and subsequently in comedy. In "Seven Days," produced by Wagenhals & Kemper, she had one of her best roles. It was then that Collin Kemper met her and learned to love her. And that love endured and lasted until his hopes were fulfilled.

But while she was playing "Seven Days" Miss Latham met Mr. Coykendall at a small social gathering. He was attracted to her at once and they met often. Three months later, and by this time the millionaire recluse was deeply in love with her, she asked him:

"Have you seen the play 'Seven Days'?"

"Why should I see it?" he answered carelessly. "I understand it is a noisy, common affair. Why do you wish me to see it?"

"Because I am playing it," she retorted.

Coykendall was shocked. His face was pale, his voice unsteady. "I never dreamed you were an actress," he said. "You are so totally unlike those people. You look so different. You behave so differently. And your name—you were introduced to me as Miss Louise Brega."

"And so I am," she told him. "Hope Latham is my stage name."

The millionaire was shocked, but not discouraged. He finally persuaded her to leave the stage and go with him to the retirement of his Hudson river estate. They were married February 6, 1912.

Then began an idyllic life for the actress, worn out by years of hard stage work. She learned to love, if not the cows and the chickens, the birds and flowers. She wandered about with her husband and both were perfectly happy.

They took long trips together in the woods and in the winters they idled about sleepy southern towns. Mrs. Coykendall forgot her love for the stage, or at least she allowed the thoughts of the footlights to slumber.

Her husband, however, was fearful of losing her to the theatrical life he hated. Often he would ask her, and especially around 7:30 o'clock in the evening:

"Are you sure you don't want to go back—there?"

Always she would answer: "Quite sure," and she thought she was, until death called him peacefully away.

Her husband's family possesses great wealth, but she could not participate in it because of the peculiar will of her father-in-law, Samuel Coykendall, president of the Ulster & Delaware railway, and director of many corporations, who died January 15, 1913. He provided that his estate should not be divided among his children until after the death of the youngest child living at the time of the death of the widow.

She had the estate, her husband's life insurance and enough money of her own to allow her to live in comfort the rest of her days had she wanted. But with the death of her husband awoke the call of the stage. She longed for her old associations until she could stand it no longer. The big estate was deserted as suddenly as, two years before, she had deserted her theatrical connections.

In "Seven Days" she had made her greatest success, and to the producer of "Seven Days" she went. Collin Kemper was not slow to seize his opportunity.

Kemper himself has had a life of considerable romance. His real name was James Hadlock. Twenty years ago he was an itinerant young actor. He ran across Lincoln A. Wagenhals at a railroad junction, and together, while awaiting their respective trains, strolled up and down the platform, reciting their various professional troubles.

The outcome of the discussion was that each formed a liking for the other and both agreed that the only way to make money in the theatrical business was to be a manager. On the spot, without any available capital, they formed a partnership.

Each went to his home—Kemper to Oswego, and Wagenhals to a town in Ohio—where both might remain over summer without expense. Shortly after his arrival Kemper happened to remark to his father that he had met a young chap named Wagenhals, with whom he had gone into partnership.

"What Wagenhals is that?" asked the father.

"I don't know," replied Kemper.

"Well, you write him and find out," said the elder man. "I used to go to school with a Wagenhals from Ohio, and it may be your partner's father."

Kemper wrote as requested. The elder Wagenhals proved to be the elder Kemper's closest boyhood friend, and the two, while having heard little of each other, still retained the old friendship. The acquaintance was renewed, and the two elder men, happy that their sons had come together in business association, agreed to finance the boys in their first effort.

The outcome is now theatrical history. Wagenhals & Kemper prospered from the outset, and they retired more than a year ago worth nearly a million dollars each.

Wagenhals & Kemper prospered for many years, but their great fortune was made only in recent years, and then upon the dramas of Cleveland playwrights. Their first great success was "Paid in Full," the work of Eugene Walter. That success was tremendous, although Walter was sleeping on park benches in New York before he was able to dispose of his manuscript.

Then Wagenhals & Kemper took hold of Avery Hopwood's "Seven Days," written by Avery Hopwood, another young Cleveland dramatist. Royalties alone on "Seven Days" are said to have been $100,000

# POLAND'S PLIGHT WORST in HISTORY


**Mme. Sembrich and Henryk Sienkewicz Voice Appeal for Sufferers in Three States of Their Native Country Where 20,000,000 Are in Want, as Compared With Only 7,000,000 in Belgium.**

THE tragic history that has been the fate of Poland has reached its climax. Her fate is so terrible as to beggar description.

This densely populated agricultural country, cut off from the world's lines of communications, ravaged now by Russian and now by German troops, is also at the mercy of bands of outlaws. They are made up of Russian soldiers left behind by their regiments to recover from their wounds. With its towns and countryside ruined Poland is facing extinction.

American people do not dream of what is happening in Poland say those who have recently come from that unfortunate land. Writers and photographers have shown the destruction wrought in Belgium by the grappling armies. But Poland is still a land unknown. It is cut off from the world's lines of communications; it has none of Belgium's political significance and is literally a land without a helping hand in the world.

To understand the situation there it must be borne in mind that Poland is still united in national feeling although divided into the three parts, of German Poland, Austrian Poland and Russian Poland. In these combined states there is a total Polish population of 20,000,000. Next to Belgium it is the most densely populated land in Europe. Contrast Poland's 20,000,000 with Belgium's 7,000,000 and you get some idea of the greater amount of suffering.

The Poles of course had no direct interest in the great conflict now raging. Primarily they are an agricultural people and lack the accumulated reserves that are at least partially sustaining the Belgians in their present distress.

Suddenly the war broke out. To the Poles it was like a flash of lightning from a clear sky. The three powers summoned to their respective colors the Poles within their territories. That meant brother was to fight against brother. They were compelled to go almost to the last able-bodied man, since all three powers had raised the age limit to thirty-eight years.

Galicia or Austrian Poland was invaded by Russian troops in the first weeks of the war. It is an invasion that will never be forgotten. Galicia is the granary of Poland and the crops were only partially harvested. In a twinkling the sustenance of the Poles for the fall and winter was destroyed. Numerous towns were sacked. The Russian troops marched rapidly and Lemberg one morning was astonished to find them at her gates.

Lemberg is a city of 220,000 people, but in the panic which followed it melted away to a population of 70,000. These refugees had no time to pack up supplies and clothing. Families were broken up and separated in the haste to get away, and for weeks after the papers of Austria were filled with advertisements of mothers and fathers and others seeking to locate missing children and other loved ones.

When the German army invaded Belgium there was no military need for wholesale destruction. In fact, after Germany had once fixed her lines it was to her military advantage to restore the country to as nearly normal condition as possible. But the armies that invaded Poland had no such military necessity. It has worked rather to their advantage to convert Poland into a desert waste, since this increased the difficulties of the other side should the tide of battle turn.

Ancient towns have been completely destroyed. Museums and historical landmarks, monuments and relics have been destroyed, libraries and their precious contents have been destroyed. In fact, needless destruction has been visited upon the land from one end to the other.

H. SIENKEWICZ

The battlefields are sickening and gruesome sights with their endless stacks of unburied men and beasts, the flocks of ravens and other scavengers rising in clouds and swinging away to light again.

After the siege of Przemysl had been raised for the first time it was necessary to bury anew some 70,000 Russians who had fallen in the conflict that had raged about the place and who had been hastily interred beneath a few inches of earth.

The Poland battles have generally been fought along some stream, and the waters, being choked and polluted with fallen men, have spread typhoid, cholera and dysentery, as these streams are the only sources of water supply for the region. These diseases have been raging in many sections of Poland.

The area of conflict in France is small compared with this huge eastern battlefield. The battle line here is 600 miles long and 200 miles wide. The desolation is indescribable. Trees have been uprooted and roads obliterated. Every vestige of vegetation has been stamped out. It will be decades before the fertility of the soil can be restored.

Henryk Sienkiewicz, author of "Quo Vadis," is a Polish refugee, driven from his home by war. He is at the Grand hotel at Vevey, Switzerland, where he is staying with members of the committee for the relief of victims of the war in Poland.

"Two countries," he says, "have especially suffered in this frightful war in which the demons of death and destruction are struggling for the empire of the world.

"These countries are Belgium and Poland. The splendid help many people have given to Belgium honors humanity. We are not jealous of the sympathy shown that little nation. We know that we should have similar sympathy if the world only knew the misery our unhappy people have undergone and are undergoing.

"What is the position of Poland? She has nothing to do with the war. Conquered and partitioned, she is not one of the belligerents. Yet a million and a half of her sons are fighting fratricidal battles in the armies of three different warring states of Europe. Our country has been made the cockpit of Europe and devastated from end to end.

"Three-quarters of a million of our children are fighting in the Russian army and another three-quarters of a million are bearing arms of Austria.

"In the kingdom of Poland alone there are 15,000 villages burned or damaged; a thousand churches and chapels destroyed. The homeless villagers have sought shelter in the forests, where it is no exaggeration to say that women and children are dying from cold and hunger by thousands daily. The children raise their fleshless arms and cry to their mothers for bread, but the Polish mother has nothing to give them but tears.

"Poland comprises 127,500 square kilometers. One hundred thousand of these have been devastated by the battling armies. More than a million horses and two million head of horned cattle have been seized by the invaders, and in the whole of the 100,000 square kilometers in the possession of the soldiers not a grain of corn, not a scrap of meat, nor a drop of milk remain for the civil population. The material losses up to the present are estimated at 1,000,000,000 rubles ($500,000,000). No fewer than 400,000 workmen have lost their means of livelihood.

"The state of things in Galicia is just as dreadful for the civil population—innocent victims of the war. Of 75,000 square kilometers, all except 5,000 square kilometers around Cracow are in possession of the Russians. They commandeered 900,000 horses and about 200,000 head of horned cattle, and seized all the grain, part of the salt fields, and the oil wells. The once rich province is a desert. Over a million inhabitants have sought refuge in other parts of Austria. They are in sheer destitution, wandering over the country, with nothing but the clothes they were wearing

"Russia is Russianizing the country as fast as it is occupied. In the railway administration alone the Russians have replaced 40,000 Poles by Russians, and as for years the Poles have enjoyed a sort of home rule under the Austrians in Galicia, their sympathies for the allies are being put to a very severe test by this action. I mention this remark because it is only right that the situation in Poland be explained impartially.

"I do not wish to make any comparison with the sufferings of Belgium; they have been too fearful for words, but our needs touch 15,000,000 ruined people in a country seven times the size of Belgium, devastated by repeated passages of armies during the six months from the early days of August."

Committees have been established in America which have done much to relieve the sufferings of these people. Mme. Marcella Sembrich, famous Polish opera singer, is at the head of the American organization. To help her in the work and to give Americans authentic descriptions of the state of the country and its people there arrived in New York the other day two prominent Poles from the devastated districts.

They are Dr. Felix Mlynarski, Ph. D., and Arthur Hausner, both of Lemberg. Both are distinguished men in their own land and have international reputations. They hope to take back with them promises of organized relief for their suffering countrymen.